Dear Js, 5/16/74

Lesar was late getting here, which gave me some time for catching up on reading. I filed as I read so I'm not farthur behind. By the time he left I could hardly keep my eyes open and it was more than an hour before Dick said he would phone. I had barely dozed off when he did, waking me.

He has not heard from the Monocle groups, so he takes this as a negative. We then discussed what to do. You had already said again that you want no public mentions so I didn't even try to think of arguments when he said that the mere mechanical problems of having the thing put together at a distance precluded that from the need for speed.

We then discussed two possibilities as I was waking. One that we get an "author" and the other than we do not and do it ourselves, and because there is no author, no financial arrangements for that. Basic to either is getting the stuff cut and pasted by subject and, although I have not heard from the Dean, who was to have phoned with some students looking for work, Dick is tonight sending me a check sufficient to pay them and to buy the books. And if the project goes no farthur, we will each have copies of the collations and the rights to use as collated.

He believes that a mere rearranging of the transcripts will meet too much commercial resistance and to this, despite time pressures, I would add that it would not carry the possible impact. So, we will need other Nixoniana to inject at appropriate points.

If we get no "author" and we undertake to do it between us, he believes that in order to get distribution where there is no established publisher it may be necessary to give a third to the distributor he would use. This would leave a third for him and for me. When he asked what advance I would want, because he will be advancing all costs and running all cash risks, I said a decent riding mower so I can get more work done, one that would stay on the hills and pull a small cart. But this is not to come until after the collation. We can then see if we can proceed.

My original idea in writing you now so I can mail it in the a.m. was to ask for suggestions of Nixoniana to be added to the transcript quotes. That still stands. If you have any subject suggestions for which you can find time, they cannot but help.

Then as I began to revive, my mind started to work. Howard is finished college and is ideal. I phoned him, he agreed, phoned Dick and got his o.k. and Howard will start as soon as he gets the Bantam edition. He will read and annotate one and cut two others up and type appropriately. It is this pasting that will have the other Nixon quotes worked in. He will identify each cutting by date and page so we can then use the official copy instead of setting type.

As of now, the one person sure to get paid is Howard. If he does this as fast as he can, he will have time remaining for other employment before college begins.

If Dick can't work out effective distribution, the prospects are considerably dimmer.

But we are at least started with what I hope you will agree is a worthwhile project, one that can be more meaningful to the mass audience than the whole (Alka-Seltzer) thing.

Now if I can only throw some of this lingering weariness maybe I can get other things done and done better.

To the degree possible we will be rushing this project.

Best,